

CORDAY . MEDIA . GROUP, INC.

3878 Oak Lawn . Suite 100-B/301 . Dallas, TX 75219 . (972) 434-2342

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**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

CS Docket No. 98-120

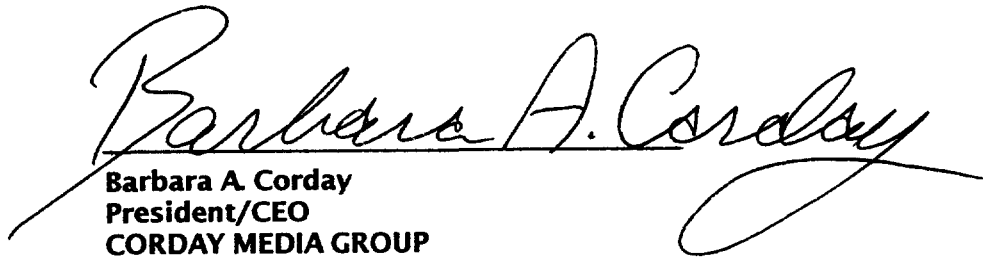
**Carriage of the Transmission of
Digital Television Broadcast Stations**

**Amendments to Part 76 of the
Commission's Rules**

**Magalie R. Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554**

**Re: Reply Comments
CS Docket No. 98-120**

**I file these comments on December 17, 1998, in the FCC's Notice of Proposed
Rulemaking on the Carriage of the Transmissions of Digital Television Broadcast Stations
adopted July 9, 1998, CS Docket No. 98-120.**


**Barbara A. Corday
President/CEO
CORDAY MEDIA GROUP
and
The BEACON, The Human Rights Channel**

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Barbara A. Corday
CS Docket No. 98-120
December 17, 1998

DIGITAL MUST CARRY COMMENTS TO FCC

With respect to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("NPRM") by the FCC in its "digital must carry" proceedings, I must express my serious concern on behalf of our Cable Channel Project, "The BEACON. The Human Rights Channel", which has been in development for almost two years. We are scheduled to begin transmission between the last quarter of 1999 to the first quarter of 2000. The BEACON is indeed on the threshold of launching a globally conscious, privately owned, history-making broadcasting cable channel concept that will light the way to a new understanding in the next millennium, by illuminating Human Rights issues from around the world. Our extensive programming plans in these areas of concern will deal with themes and issues concerning race, gender, aging, children's rights, health, physically challenged and same-gender sexual orientation. Because of the broad spectrum of Human Rights themes and issues we will be focusing our programming on, we anticipate an eclectic and very large viewing audience. Take for example, just the programming focused on Gay/Lesbian themes and issues. It's estimated that 10% of the American population is same-gender oriented, bi-gender oriented or transgendered. Therefore, approximately 27 million Americans are Gay/Lesbian. Assuming that each of these 27 million Gay/Lesbian Americans is "connected" in some way to only four other people either as a relative, friend, neighbor or co-worker, that presents an interested audience of 108 million viewers just for the Gay/Lesbian themed programming alone. This same 108 million will also, most likely, be interested in other programming that The BEACON will be presenting on other Human Rights themes.

The BEACON is truly a "niche" within the niche networks. Our developing programs, which will feature approximately 50% to 60% same-gender oriented programming, will be designed to give "voice" as well as vision. Through interesting, enlightening, educational and enjoyable entertainment, The BEACON will offer inspiration, information and innovation to begin the process of restructuring our thoughts and attitudes about how we view each other in our global "village."

It is our opinion that people fear most what they understand the least...what they don't know about. Anything that is labeled as "different" creates a certain separatist attitude. These prejudicial attitudes about gender roles, aging, race, physical handicaps, and current attitudes towards gay men and lesbians are based on misconceptions, misinformation, and misrepresentations that continue to feed the fears and plant the seeds of prejudice. These prevailing prejudicial attitudes are holding all of us hostage and have eroded the very core of our common human experiences.

It is time to begin the process of restructuring our thoughts and attitudes toward one another. This ongoing process will be more than just a shift in focus; the BEACON will address a critical shift in logic as well. Our reward will be new behaviors based on new thinking and attitudes.

No other channel on the air now can offer this because no other channel is focused on Human Rights. No other channel emphasizes to its viewers how they really are a part of a "global village" and what we do to each other does indeed affect us all. The hatred and the prejudice must be stopped. If it cannot be stopped all together, then, hopefully, the ravages of it can be curtailed. The BEACON can begin to do that with our programming.

However, we believe that potential Digital Must Carry requirements would pose a serious and tragic threat to The BEACON's ultimate development and evolution, by forcing cable systems to make deletions in their lineups.

Barbara A. Corday
CS Docket 98-120

Basically, we see this as forcing cable systems to give preferential status to mainstream programming. It is, in effect, selective censorship with governmental approval in violation of the First Amendment.

Digital Must Carry signals will limit channel capacity and, therefore, cable systems will have to limit their lineups, forcing these operators to pillage the Constitution by prohibiting what should be "open" access. Do you honestly think that if forced to make a choice between a more established channel with a large compliment of viewers and advertisers and a new start-up channel that is yet unproven, the systems would choose the latter? New technology is being born everyday and digital compression seems to have widened the playing field enough to include everybody, provided, of course, that the channel capacity is not unduly restricted, and is available to everybody and not just a select few.

In addition to the Human Rights issues of equality and fairness in race, gender, age, health, the rights of liberty, the rights of choice, the rights of freedom of speech as well as the rights of America's Gay and Lesbian population, will finally have the opportunity through The BEACON, to be seen and heard in unbiased, unqualified truthful formats that serve to enrich, enhance, and enlighten not only them, but their families, their friends, and their colleagues who comprise untotaled additional millions of potential viewers that our emerging network may ultimately be serving. The truth is out there as they say, but we're not going to hear it from the fox.

Digital Must Carry Requirements to us might just mean the difference between existence and oblivion in the real displacement possibilities that cable systems would be forced to exercise in having to broadcast both digital and analog broadcast signals. A fair resolution to the Digital Must Carry issue must be brought about by commercial competition, and allow the real choices to be made by an informed and enlightened public.